

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 04620 161458Z

51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 ARA-16 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 161400Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8102

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 4620

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EAID, SG

SUBJ: FAA SECTION 32-POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: A. DAKAR 4164, B. STATE 163654

1. SUMMARY: DURING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS YOUSSEPH SYLLA JULY 15, DCM MADE ORAL PRESENTATION ON FAA SECTION 32 - POLITICAL PRISONERS AS INSTRUCTED BY SECSTATE 163654 AND PREVIOUS TELS. END SUMMARY.

2. DCM BEGAN BY STATING THAT DEMARCHE WAS IN NO WAY SINGLING OUT SENEGAL BUT WAS BEING MADE TO OUR FRIENDS AROUND WORLD. HE SAID OBVIOUSLY LIST OF GOVTS BEING CONTACTED INCLUDED SOME WHICH COUNTERVENED SPIRIT AND LETTER OF LEGISLATION AND MANY OTHERS WHICH WERE EXEMPLARY IN THEIR HANDLING OF DISSENT AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION. DCM SAID HE WAS CERTAIN GOS WOULD WELCOME USG INITIATIVE SINCE SENEGAL WAS COUNTRY WHICH ALSO ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO POLITICAL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT HE HOPED SENEGAL WOULD RECOGNIZE MERIT OF US CONGRESS EFFORT TO INFLUENCE REGIMES WHICH MIGHT BE REPRESSIVE.

3. DCM READ TO SYLLA TEXT OF SECTION 32, FAA 1973 (PARA CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAKAR 04620 161458Z

2, STATE 068545) AND EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS RESTATEMENT

OF LONGSTANDING INTERNATIONAL CONCERN. SAID WE HAD RECEIVED NO INQUIRIES NOR ALLEGATIONS REGARDING SENEGAL AND, IN FACT FROM EMBASSY'S EXPERIENCE AND OBSERVATIONS GOS HAD NO REASON TO FEEL THAT LEGISLATION WAS AIMED AT SENEGAL.

4. SYLLA, WHO IS DYNAMIC AND QUICK WITTED BY NATURE, INITIALLY BRIDLED AT OUR RAISING SUBJECT AND INTERRUPTED PRESENTATION EARLY ON TO INQUIRE WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE DEMARCHE TO GOS. AS SESSION PROGRESSED HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD USG MOTIVES AND APPRECIATED THEIR POTENTIAL EFFECTS. HE DID ADD THAT IT UNFORTUNATE THAT STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS WILL DILUTE LOFTY MOTIVES OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AND THAT "MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX" WILL PREVENT APPLICATION OF SECTION 32 TO "SUCH GOVTS AS THOSE IN PORTUGAL AND IN CHILE". SYLLA CLOSED WITH SPIRITED CRITICISM OF CHILEAN GOVT'S ABUSE OF CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS SAYING GOS HOPED USG "COULD DO SOMETHING TO STOP BRUTAL REPRESSION" BEING PRACTICED IN CHILE.

5. DCM SAID THAT USG'S INFLUENCE ON OTHER GOVTS SHOULD NOT BE OVERESTIMATED. HE ADDED THAT USG SHARES SENEGALESE CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE AND ASKED THAT GOS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN USG INTENT TO INFLUENCE REPRESSIVE REGIMES IN RIGHT DIRECTION.
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